

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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DA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR

USNMR SHAPE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4462

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79

TAGS: MCAF, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY: LAND FORCES SUB-GROUP

REF: USNATO 4279

1. AT THIRD MEETING SEPT. 18, SUB-GROUP REVIEWED SECOND DRAFT OF REPORT TO STEERING GROUP ON POSSIBILITIES OF SPECIALIZATION IN THE CENTRAL REGION. PAPER CONTINUES TO CONCENTRATE ON POSSIBILITY OF DUTCH NON-REPLACEMENT OF HONEST JOHN WITH LANCE, WILL CONCLUDE THAT DUTCH NEED THEIR OWN LANCE BATTALION, AND LEAVE OPEN POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER STUDY IN OTHER AREAS.

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2. BELGIAN REP SUGGESTED NEW SPECIALIZATION OPTION WHEREBY DUTCH WOULD BUY LANCE BATTALION SET LESS MISSILES AND NON-NUCLEAR WARHEADS. OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD PROCURE MISSILES AND WARHEADS (HE DID NOT SUGGEST WHO WOULD BUY THOSE NOT

BOUGHT BY DUTCH). SHAPE WOULD ESTABLISH A POOL, DETERMINE ITS SIZE AND ALLOCATE WEAPONS AS NEEDED IN EVENT OF WAR. THIS OPTION WILL APPEAR IN PAPER AS WELL AS FOLLOWING TWO:

A. ANOTHER NATION PROCURES LANCE SYSTEM, NETHERLANDS MANS AND OPERATES IT AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF I NETHERLANDS CORPS.

B. EXCHANGE MISSION RESPONSIBILITIES SO THAT ANOTHER NATION PROVIDES AN ADDITIONAL LANCE SYSTEM TO BE PLACED IN SUPPORT OF I NETHERLANDS CORPS.

3. WE WILL NOT REPAT NOT NEED SPECIFIC ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN PARA 2, REFTEL. INSTEAD, FOR EACH SPECIALIZATION OPTION CONSIDERED, PAPER WILL EXAMINE WHETHER OPTION IS BEST FROM ILITARY POINT OF VIEW, COST, AND LIKELIHOOD OF NATIONAL ACCEPTANCE. LATTER POINT WILL, IN EFFECT, REQUIRE EACH PARTICIPATING CAPITAL TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS LIKE THOSE IN REFTEL.

4. IMS PLANS ISSUE THIRD DRAFT REPORT IN A FEW DAYS, IN FORM OF WORKING PAPER. MISSION WILL REFER TEXT TO WASHINGTON WITH RECOMMENDATIONS.

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